

You recently attempted to concentrate media outlets even more in the hands of fewer and fewer businesses, whose mandate is to make money, not to support the free information flow so essential to a working democracy. The actions of the Sinclair group in airing the smear of John Kerry are a perfect example of why your action was wrong and why Sinclair should be forced to give up ownership of a large fraction of their outlets as a penalty for this egregious subverting of the public good.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions  
show why we need to  
strengthen media  
ownership rules, not  
weaken them. They  
show why the license  
renewal process  
needs to involve  
more than a returned  
postcard. Thank you.